

[John C. Elder]

[?] [?] [?]

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20th

DATE Jan. 3, 1939 SUBJECT American Folklore

1. Name and address of informant John C. Elder 1120 Dawson
2. Date and time of interview Jan. 3, 1938, 2:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.
3. Place of interview Residence
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant None
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompany you None
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc. Small two or three cottage. [???

FORM B Personal History of Informant

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20th

DATE Jan. 3 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT John C. Elder, 1120 Dawson

1. Ancestry Negro, Indian, Caucasian.
2. Place and date of birth Clarksville, Tenn. 1848

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3. Family Three
4. Places lived in
5. Education, with dates Elementary
6. Occupations and accomplishments, with dates Barber—forty-five yrs.
7. Special skills and interests Carpentering
8. Community and religious activities Baptist
9. Description of informant Small wiry mulatto, hair course and straight, barely streaked with white.
10. Other points gained In interview Despite his ninety years of age, subject if very mentally alert.

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

NAME OF WORKER Albert Burks ADDRESS 239 So 20th

DATE Jan. 3, 1938 SUBJECT American Folklore

NAME AND ADDRESS OF INFORMANT John C. Elder 1120 Dawson

"I was born in Clarkesville Tennesse in 1848. My daddy was a white man, a doctor. My mother was partly Negro and Indian. My father died when I was about nine years old. He never treated my mother as a slave been did for her just as if she had of been white and legally married to her. When he died his brother, my uncle, brought us to Cincinatti. Later we moved to Lewiston Ill. and that was my home town until I came to Lincoln first in 1870, and then went away and came back again in 1879. I dont believe there is another Negro in Lincoln that is ninety, and [bee?] here sixty years. I had a barbershop. in a basement

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underneath a building where the first National Bank building now stands. trade was all white. In fact in the early eighties there was only one white barbershop here, but there were six shops owned by colored men. During the early days, "Negroes did all of the barber work. In those days a Negro could get almost any kind of work that was done by hands.

I've owned a lot of property here but I have lost all of it through bad investments. Lincolns been good to me and I guess I am just as satisfied that I came here as any where else.